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DAVE ELLIFRIT/THE CENTER FOR WHALE RESEARCH VIA AP

Ultrasound used to teach Cantonese

UBC RESEARCH

Technology lets students see placement, shape of tongue

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

Getting the pronunciation just right when learning a new language can be frustrating, but UBC researchers say they have come up with an innovative way to help people learn new tongues.

UBC's speech research lab, eNunciate, is partnering with the new Cantonese-language program to pilot a technique that combines ultrasound imagery with a series of follow-along video clips.

The innovative technology allows students to see the placement and shape of the tongue during the pronunciation of different sounds. Researchers hope this will help students mimic the exact sounds themselves.

"Some of the tones in Cantonese are very difficult to pronounce," said Holly Xing, a UBC student who is a native Mandarin speaker.

She is one of the students in UBC's Cantonese program who tried the learning tool for the first time Wednesday.

Linguists say one of the biggest challenges of learning a new language is pronunciation because people's tongues are not used to the different placements.

"Ultrasound is a really good tool because it makes speech sounds visible," said Heather Bliss, the research co-ordinator for the project.

This is the first time researchers have used this technology as a teaching tool.

"(The technology) has been picked up in the research sense but not so much in the applied sense and that's where UBC has been quite ahead of the game — investing in this as a pedagogical tool," said Bryan Gick, director of the interdisciplinary speech research lab at UBC.

Bliss and her team of researchers are also partnering with several First Nations in B.C. in hopes the technique can help language-revitalization efforts.

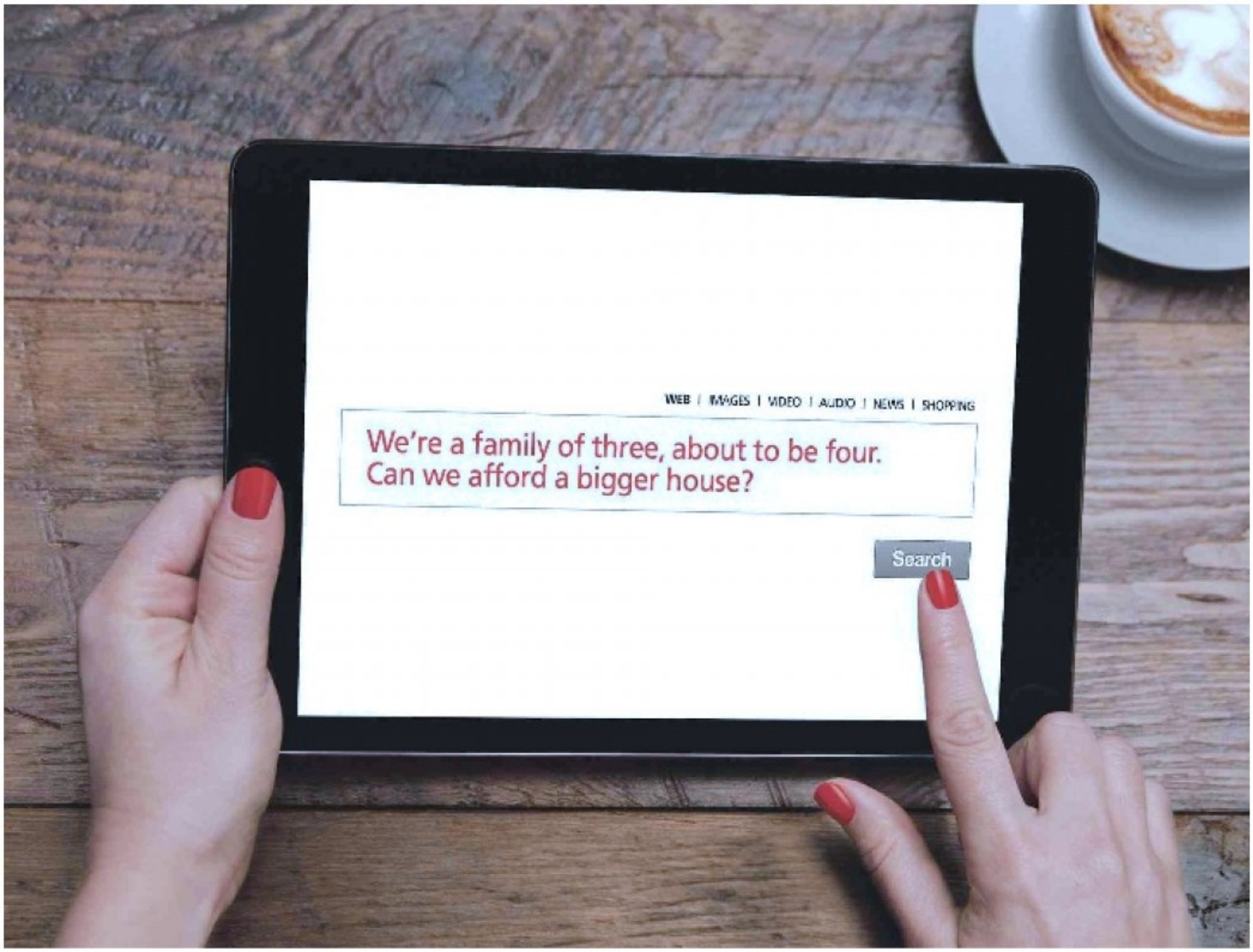
UBC's linguistics team chose to pilot the technology using Cantonese because while it is widely spoken in Vancouver's Chinese community, it is a language under threat.

"There is a lot of pressure right now to not speak Cantonese in some areas of the world," said Gick, who is also head of UBC's linguistics department.

Since Hong Kong was given back to China in 1997, schools in the region are increasingly teaching Putonghua (Mandarin), China's official language, instead of Cantonese.

"If Cantonese is going to continue to thrive, one of the places where it is likely to thrive is populations outside of China," said Gick.

UBC started offering Cantonese-language classes in fall 2015 thanks to a $2-million donation from brothers Alex and Chi Shum Watt, Canadian businessmen who are originally from Hong Kong.



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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Ancient 'hobbits' of Indonesia were 600,000 years older than thought. **World**

Farmer says BC Hydro warning 'weak'

SITE C DAM

Authorities say company didn't measure 4 pollutants

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

A Peace River farmer whose lands will be submerged by the Site C dam reservoir said he was "frustrated" federal inspectors let BC Hydro off with just a warning for not monitoring air pollution on its construction site.

It's the second written warning issued to the Crown corporation over the $9-billion hydroelectric project since October, according to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's website.

"We get a little frustrated sometimes by how, when they're caught not doing the letter of the law and their permits, they just get warnings," Ken Boon, president of the Peace Valley Landowner Association, told Metro in a phone interview.

Boon, a local farmer and campground owner, said the CEAA's May 26 warning suggests oversight over construction is too "weak" to prevent violations, citing previous warnings issued over erosion.

"The Environmental Assessment Office has pinched their toes a couple times," he said. "I'm not sure what the normal protocol for enforcement is supposed to be, but if they're just giving a warning it seems they have all kinds of opportunity to crawl out from underneath this thing."

In its warning letter, the CEAA's compliance and enforcement chief Michel Vitou alleged BC Hydro broke the law by not measuring four air pollutants on its site near Fort St. John.

"None of the air quality monitoring stations are currently collecting data of … total suspended particulates, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide as required," he wrote. As a result, he added, BC Hydro "has been unable to monitor air quality effects in order to inform the appropriate authorities."

Vitou said the alleged violation is "punishable on summary conviction" and fine of $200,000 for a first-time offence, and $400,000 every day the violation continues. Instead, he issued a "written warning … in order for you to take corrective action," and gave the Crown corporation until Friday to respond to the letter.

Site C Clean Energy Project spokesman David Conway said the letter is being reviewed and BC Hydro is "preparing a response" by deadline.

"Based on our review at this time, the referenced federal conditions do not explicitly require collection of the listed air quality parameters in the letter," he said in a phone interview. The CEAA's Nov. 25 decision approving the project required "measures to avoid or minimize exceedances of federal and provincial ambient air quality objectives" for the listed air pollutants.

"BC Hydro is committed to meeting all the conditions of our environmental certification," Conway said, adding that air quality data from a network of monitoring stations is provided to B.C.'s environment ministry.

Preparatory construction work by Peace River Hydro Partners in May 2016. COURTESY BC HYDRO

COURT

Man awarded $8M for wrongful imprisonment for 27 years

A man who was wrongfully convicted on sexual assault charges has been awarded more than $8 million by a B.C. court after spending nearly 27 years behind bars.

In a 130-page ruling released Wednesday, Chief Justice Christopher Hinkson of the B.C. Supreme Court criticized the Crown's decision to withhold key evidence that he said Ivan Henry was entitled to receive.

The judge said it demonstrated a "shocking disregard" for Henry's charter rights.

Henry, 69, sued the City of Vancouver, the province and the federal government after being acquitted in 2010 of 10 sexual assault convictions.

"Crown counsel's wrongful non-disclosure seriously infringed Mr. Henry's right to a fair trial," Hinkson wrote in his decision.

"If Mr. Henry had received the disclosure to which he was entitled, the likely result would have been his acquittal at his 1983 trial … and certainly the avoidance of his sentencing as dangerous offender."

The judge outlined a series of police notes, reports, lab information, interviews, witness statements and police property and exhibits that wasn't disclosed to Henry before or during his trial.

The Crown also didn't tell Henry or his lawyer that a police detective believed one of the victims had been assaulted by a different person, says the decision.

The judge said material information and evidence was intentionally withheld and that the Crown knew or ought to have known that this would compromise Henry's ability to defend himself.

Crown lawyer John Hunter argued Henry's decision to rebuff legal counsel meant he wouldn't have known what to do with the additional evidence even if it had been provided to him, despite his repeated requests.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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‘The bus is moving again’

GEORGIA STRAIT

Tanker projects renew a push for conservation area concept

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

World Oceans Day brings focus to at-risk orca populations and Salish Sea ecosystems.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Proponents of a National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) in the southern Strait of Georgia say the long-standing proposal would put economic sustainability before large-scale industrialization.

According to New Democrat MLA Gary Holman, Parks Canada recently hired several new staff to examine the idea of a conservation area spanning from Gabriola Island to Oak Bay.

“Absolutely the bus is moving again,” the Saanich-North and the Islands-riding MLA told Metro in a phone interview on Wednesday — World Oceans Day — “and I see an opportunity to achieve something great for the area.

“This is such a gorgeous area with tremendous ecological values and species like the orca. An NMCA would be a move in the direction to try to protect those resources rather than over time degrading them with large industrial megaprojects.”

National marine conservation areas are not nature reserves or parks but are instead “managed for sustainable use and containing smaller zones of high protection,” Parks Canada’s website states. They “focus instead on ecologically sustainable use, which means harmonizing conservation practices with human activities.”

The federal government is currently mulling whether to give the final go-ahead to Kinder Morgan’s Trans Mountain pipeline expansion — and the project’s associated seven-fold increase in tanker traffic — and there is currently a proposal to build a liquefied natural gas facility on the Saanich Inlet.

“If we had an NMCA in place right now, I think for projects like that it definitely would send a signal to investors that this is a special area and may not be suitable for certain kinds of industrial development.”

> **“I see an opportunity to achieve something great for the area.”**
> Gary Holman

On May 18, he and the NDP’s critics for Aboriginal Relations and the Environment co-signed a letter to B.C. environment minister Mary Polak urging her to back the proposal. Despite a 13-year-old provincial-federal agreement to study the idea, it “has been sorely neglected,” the letter stated.

Recently, Parks Canada’s Protected Areas Establishment division brought on board former Penelakut Nation chief Lisa Joe as First Nations Co-ordinator — 19 First Nations would be affected by the proposal — and also hired a project manager, Holman said.

An existing NMCA off the shores of Gwaii Haanas, on Haida Gwaii, is jointly managed by Parks Canada and the Haida Nation.

That model is being touted for such an area in the Salish Sea.

CYCLING

Bike to Work Week breaks record

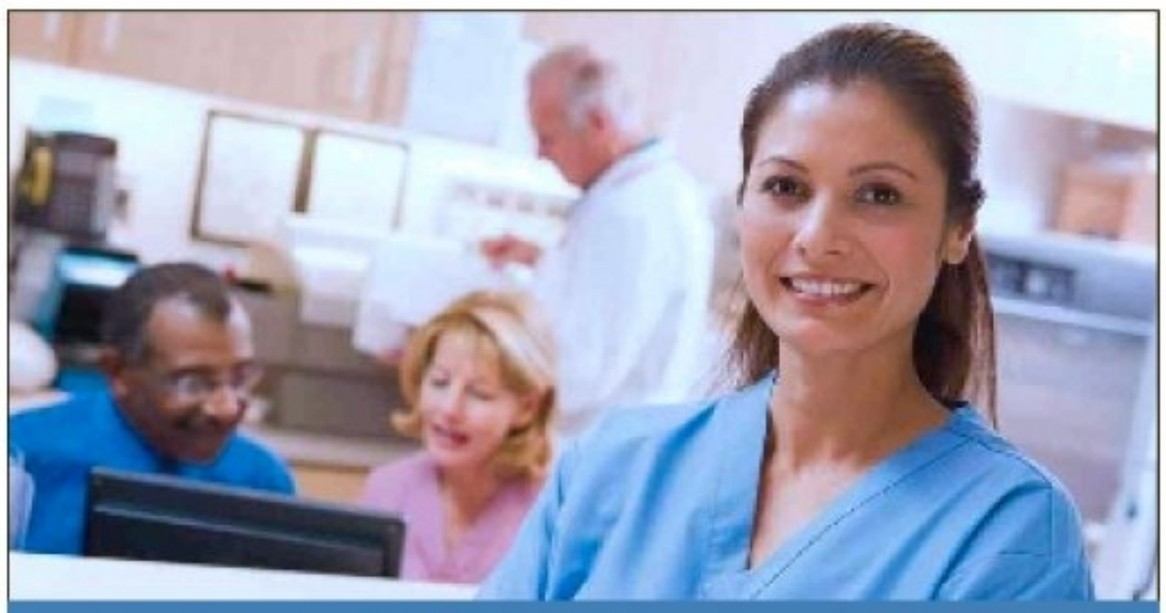
Bike to Work Week got a record-breaking number of people to bike commute this year, according to HUB Cycling.

The advocacy group says 11,602 people registered for the event. Of that group, 1,963 were new to bike commuting. Together, they logged almost 60,000 trips during Bike to Work Week, which ran May 30 to June 5.

“It’s more obvious than ever before that riding a bike is responding to people’s desires for healthier lifestyles, saving money and solutions to smaller living spaces,” said Erin O’Melinn, executive director at HUB Cycling, in a written release Wednesday.

Students also enthusiastically joined the program, with 118 schools in Metro Vancouver participating, up from 103 in 2015.

The one-week commitment is often the start of a healthy habit of cycling more often, added Emma Cunnington with HUB Cycling. METRO



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A demonstration calling for more safe injection sites, like Insite, was staged on Wednesday.
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Groups call for more safe injection sites

OVERDOSE CRISIS

Critics say government lacks concrete plans

Over the past three years, Laura Shaver has saved the lives of nine people who were overdosing on drugs by injecting them with an antidote called naloxone.

Shaver leads one of two groups urging the provincial and federal governments to open more supervised injection sites to stop a surge of overdose deaths across Canada.

The Vancouver woman said she has used naloxone to keep people alive on the street, at her home, at an unsanctioned site and at a drug users' group in another British Columbia city.

"I never thought I would be so happy to stick a needle into somebody and see them breathe again," said Shaver, of the BC Association of People on Methadone. "It's what makes me fight every day for what we're fighting for."

Dozens of members from Shaver's group and the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users rallied on Wednesday outside the country's most well-known safe-injection facility, called Insite, in the Downtown Eastside.

Their call for government action comes as B.C. remains under a public-health emergency declaration after a spike in overdoses. Since April, health authorities have been allowed to collect overdose information in real time to target outreach to the most vulnerable people and communities.

In May, the BC Coroners Service reported the powerful drug fentanyl was linked to nearly half of more than 250 overdose deaths tallied in the province in the first four months of 2015.

Last week, proponents of a campaign called "Yes to Supervised Consumption Services" planted 600 crosses in a Victoria park to symbolize the minimum number of people predicted to die of overdoses in the province this year, according to chief medical health officer Dr. Perry Kendall.

The Vancouver-based groups say Kendall's crisis declaration in April was a good first step, but more concrete plans are needed to save lives. They're urging the federal government to follow the example of Insite by immediately granting exemptions under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to health authorities so they can open similar injection facilities without fear of charges.

While Insite has been a proven model since 2003 and could be copied, they say other options include adding similar services at existing medical clinics, where people could inject drugs under the watchful eye of a nurse.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DOCTOR-ASSISTED DYING

Nurses OK to aid: Justice Branch

When Dr. Ellen Wiebe performed her first assisted death of a new legal era on Tuesday, she did it without the help of a nurse.

The Vancouver doctor, who has become a champion of the right to access medical aid in dying, inserted the IV herself. She has training in the procedure, but she lamented that it is nurses who are experts.

"Patients should have the best person to put an IV and the best person is not me," she said in an interview.

Late Wednesday, the B.C. Criminal Justice Branch issued guidelines for nurses and pharmacists to fill the vacuum while the federal Liberals' controversial Bill C-14 works its way through the Senate.

Before the government's announcement, Wiebe urged the B.C. government to follow Alberta's lead and issue a directive stating criminal charges will not be pursued against medical teams who participate in aid in dying.

But while doctors are clearly protected by the Supreme Court's judgment, nurses and pharmacists are not explicitly mentioned in the ruling. A statement from the Justice Branch, which is the body that determines if criminal charges are laid, said it recognizes that physician-assisted death may require the involvement of various health professionals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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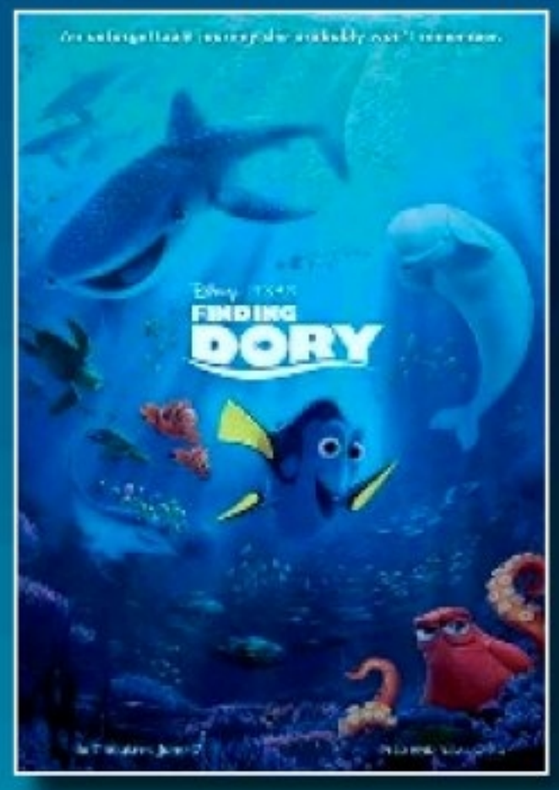

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Near-death requirement removed

ASSISTED DYING

Senators vote 41-30 to amend Bill C-14

The Senate voted Wednesday to allow suffering Canadians who are not near death to seek medical help to end their lives, knocking out the central pillar underpinning the federal government's proposed new law on medically assisted dying.

Senators voted 41-30 to amend Bill C-14, deleting the requirement that a person's natural death must be "reasonably foreseeable."

The amendment replaces the eligibility criteria in the bill with the much more permissive criteria set out in last year's landmark Supreme Court ruling, which struck down the ban on assisted dying.

That sets the Senate on a potential collision course with the government.

Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould signalled earlier Wednesday that the government is unlikely to accept such an amendment.

"We've worked incredibly hard on this piece of legislation to ensure that we find the right balance and we're confident that we've found the right balance between recognizing personal autonomy and protecting the vulnerable," she said outside a Liberal caucus meeting. "If we were to consider removing reasonable foreseeability, that would broaden the regime, the balance that we have struck."

She added: "There would need to be additional safeguards.... This is an incredible and momentous change in our country, and we're confident what we put forward is the right choice for Canada right now. It's a first step."

In anticipation of that reaction, the amendment, proposed by Sen. Serge Joyal and passed late Wednesday night, is intended to go hand-in-hand with another amendment, to be proposed by Conservative Senate leader Claude Carignan.

Carignan's amendment would impose an additional safeguard, requiring a judge to sign off on an application for assisted dying by anyone who is not close to death. It is to be debated and voted upon separately. The near-death proviso in the bill has been widely condemned by legal and constitutional experts who maintain it renders the legislation unconstitutional and flies in the face of the Supreme Court ruling. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The dramatic scene after a sinkhole formed on Rideau Street in Ottawa on Wednesday.
JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa street swallowed up

Joe Lofaro and Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Andre Da Costa knew something was wrong when the power went out in his building Wednesday morning.

But it wasn't until he rushed outside that he realized a cavernous sinkhole had engulfed a huge chunk of Rideau Street, creating confusion and chaos in the heart of downtown Ottawa.

"The police and firefighters are telling us to get back, get back, get back," Da Costa said.

Piece by piece, the road fell away until the sinkhole spanned nearly the entire width of Rideau Street, just down the road from the Parliament buildings.

A van parked on the road fell into the hole, a moment captured on a bystander's phone and shared on social media. Da Costa saw it happen before his eyes.

"There's some smoke or some dust or water spray coming up out of the sinkhole, and then the roadway starts giving away," he said. "There was a minivan parked on that loading zone and then that started to tip and then fell into the sinkhole."

The city is now left searching for answers. Officials at a news conference Wednesday afternoon could not immediately say if crews excavating the last 50-odd metres of the light-rail line had anything to do with the street's collapse.

Crews were working in the tunnel at the time, but the Rideau Transit Group says no one reported any injuries and no one is missing.

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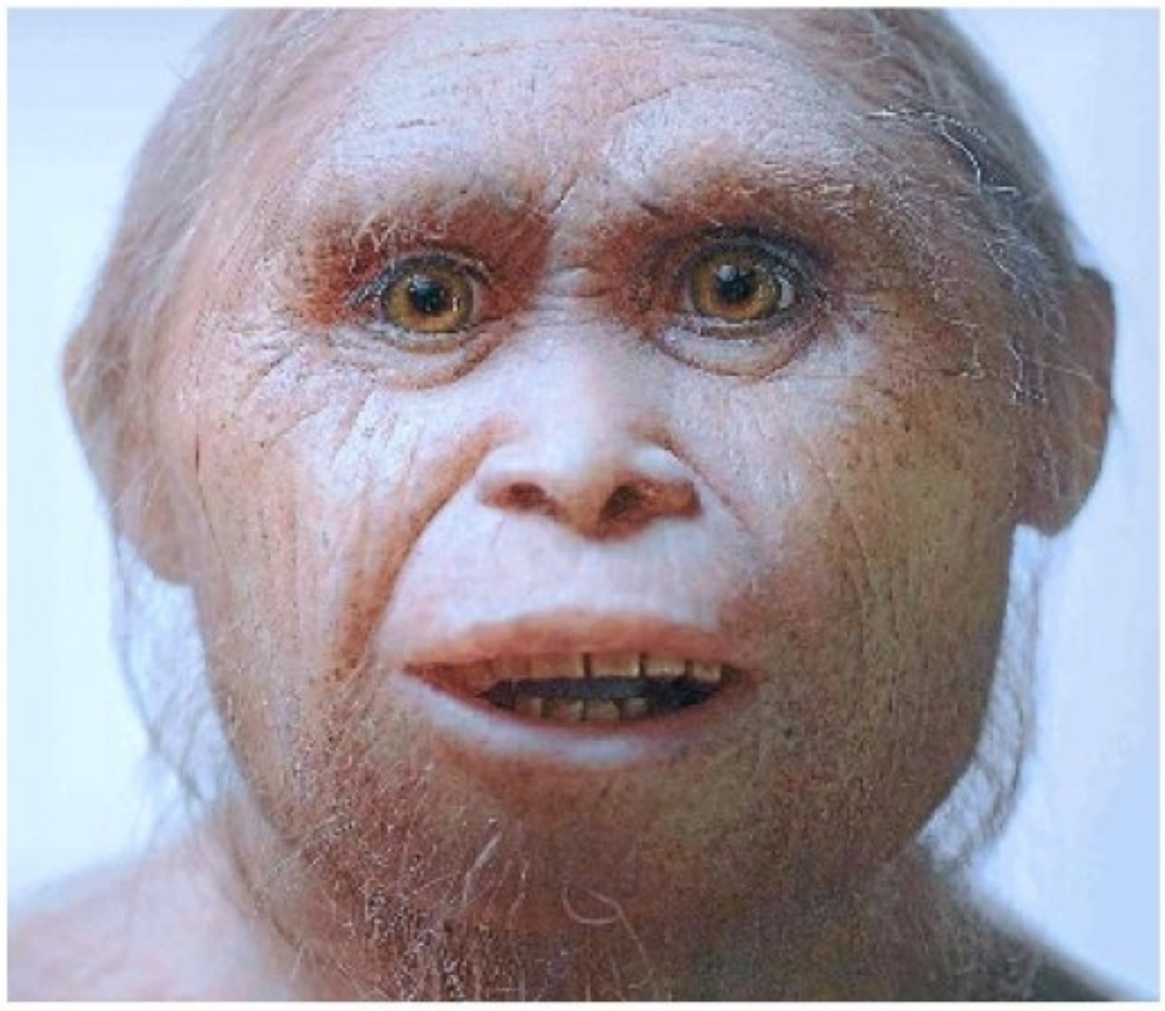

A reconstruction model of Homo floresiensis at Sangiran Museum. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCIENCE

'Hobbits' older than thought

Human evolution is usually portrayed as a neat linear progression, from hunched primate to tall, proud man. In 2003, a discovery on the Indonesian island of Flores scrambled that narrative.

In a cave called Liang Bua, researchers found the nearly complete skeleton of a tiny human who lived between 50,000 and 100,000 years ago and who stood just over a metre high. They declared it a new species, officially called Homo floresiensis, but quickly nicknamed the "hobbit" hominin. But almost everything about these extinct people was a mystery. Where did they come from, and how did they get there?

On Wednesday, researchers writing in the journal Nature announced they had discovered much older, even tinier human fossils on Flores.

The 700,000-year-old remains are helping scientists understand the origins of one of the most enigmatic members of our genus.

> **These guys survived there for 650,000 years.**
> Bence Viola

"These guys survived there for 650,000 years or so, which is quite amazing," said Bence Viola, a professor of paleoanthropology at the University of Toronto, who was not involved in the research.

The research team found the new fossils in 2014 at a site called Mata Menge, which sits more than 70 kilometres away from the Liang Bua cave.

In a layer of sediment that dates to 700,000 years ago and also contained stone tools and fossils of several animals, the researchers discovered a jaw fragment and teeth belonging to at least three individuals. Amazingly, the jaw was 20 per cent smaller than the smallest jaw from Liang Bua.

The research team was careful to say that until more specimens are discovered, they can't say for sure if these even tinier people are the direct ancestors of Homo floresiensis. But the discovery helps resolve some of the arguments about the hobbits' origins.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bernie Sanders is soldiering on

U.S. ELECTION

He's been clobbered in campaign but he won't quit

Bernie Sanders is said to be feeling combative. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

America's self-styled political revolutionary remains on the battlefield after losing the war to Hillary Clinton.

Bernie Sanders isn't ready to go.

He's lost a majority of states in the Democratic primaries, the popular vote, elected delegates and unelected superdelegates, and has been clobbered in the biggest remaining states.

But an electric energy rippled through his youthful crowd as he declared his intention to march on — at least to the final primary next week in Washington, D.C., then perhaps to next month's Democratic convention.

Sanders is said to be feeling combative, is bitter about how he's been treated by the Democratic party and is brushing aside staffers who are insisting on the need for party unity, according to a story published by the web outlet Politico.

"The struggle continues," the senator told a California crowd.

"I am pretty good at arithmetic. I know that the fight in front of us is a very, very steep fight. But we will continue to fight for every vote and every delegate."

The sound of the crowd hinted at Democratic disunity.

While his supporters cheered his reference to stopping Republican Donald Trump, they cheered even longer and louder when he described his campaign as something greater than defeating Trump — it's about transforming the country with a platform of more social programs and less money in politics.

On the very night she made history as the first female presidential nominee of a major U.S. party, a Democratic audience jeered Sanders' reference to receiving a gracious phone call from her.

Sanders raised his hands in a half-hearted effort to silence the boos. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SYRIA

Thousands flee ahead of push to liberate Aleppo

Thousands fled Aleppo, Syria, on Wednesday in anticipation of a final push by U.S.-backed forces to liberate it from Daesh rule, as airstrikes pounded rebel-held districts. The Syrian Democratic Forces have all but encircled Manbij, a key waypoint on a Daesh supply line between the Turkish border and the extremist group's de facto capital, Raqqa.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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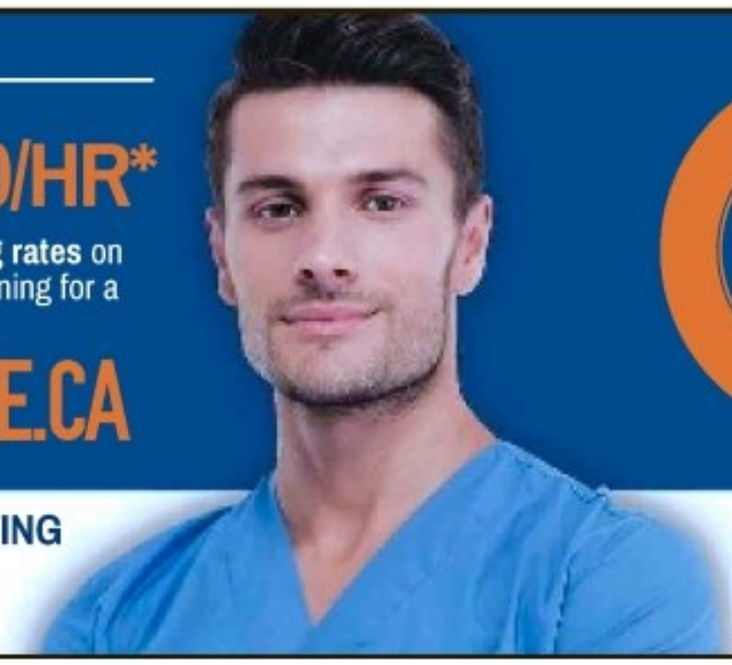

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Feds open study of housing market

REAL ESTATE

Examination focuses on affordability, foreign buyers

The federal government is conducting an in-depth examination of the country's real estate markets as it decides whether more changes are needed to rein in escalating prices or curb the impact of foreign investment on housing affordability, Finance Minister Bill Morneau said Wednesday.

"What we're doing right now is we're making sure that we have a deep dive into the information to ensure that any considerations we have for change are evidence-based," Morneau said after giving a speech at an economic conference in Toronto.

"Our ongoing goal is to ensure that we understand the market in all of its complexity, that we consider all the evidence to determine what measures are necessary, on an ongoing basis, to ensure that Canadians have the ability to buy homes."

The government has faced growing calls from researchers, bankers and other housing sector observers in recent days to address soaring prices and mounting household debt, particularly in Toronto and Vancouver.

Morneau did not specify Wednesday what sort of changes the government was considering for the future.

The government is looking at a number of factors affecting the real estate industry, such as population growth, the labour market and supply, Morneau said.

"We're going to remain focused on this, using real evidence to think about what are the measures that we can do in order to ensure that this market stays healthy for Canadians," Morneau said.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is scheduled to address The Economist's Canada Summit later Wednesday.

The summit is aimed at identifying the key trends that are reshaping Canada's role in the global economy while delving into ways the country can become more competitive.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance Minister Bill Morneau THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reindeer walk across the road in Suomussalmi, Finland. Finnish herders launched an app to decrease the number of reindeer killed in the northern Arctic. CONTRIBUTED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TECHNOLOGY

Herders hope app will save reindeer

Finnish reindeer herders in the Arctic have painted Rudolph's antlers in fluorescent colours, hung reflectors around their necks and even used movable traffic signs, but none of the efforts have helped reduce the annual 4,000 reindeer road deaths.

Now they have decided on a new tactic: an interactive reindeer warning app where drivers can tap their mobile phone screens to register any reindeer they see and get warnings if they are approaching an area where reindeer have been spotted.

In a pilot project, drivers of heavy transport vehicles are being given 1,000 free handsets, which have been deactivated for any other use than the reindeer warning system. If it proves successful, the app will be available for download on smartphones later this year.

Anne Ollila, director of the Finnish Reindeer Herders' Association, said Wednesday the other methods didn't work.

"Drivers often mistook reindeer with reflectors for people in the dark, thinking they wouldn't run into the middle of the road when they saw car headlights approaching," she told The Associated Press. "And the deer would tear the reflectors off."

Reindeer traffic warning signs were pinched by tourists for souvenirs, and reindeer would scrape off the fluorescent paint from their antlers: "Somehow the reindeer know they had paint on their antlers. Maybe their friends laughed at them," Ollila said.

Reindeer husbandry provides work for some 10,000 people in the region. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2015 highlights

5.7 million litres of water saved by CMBC during summer water shortage

238.8 million journeys across the network, an increase of 1.8%

320 million in cost savings since 2012

3.2% increase in transit revenue

2015 TransLink named one of BC's Top Employers

1,672,652 calls, online forms and emails responded to by a Customer Information or Customer Relations agent

$279.6 million on major capital projects

77 million taps across the system

2015 TransLink Annual General Meeting and Open Board Meeting

Join us at our **Annual General Meeting** as we review 2015 highlights and open the floor to questions.

Our June **Board Meeting** will follow after a brief break:

Thursday, June 23, 2016

Annual General Meeting
9:00 a.m.

Open Board Meeting
10:00 a.m.

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, June 9, 2016

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON THE TROUBLE WITH PLEBISCITES

The option of a national referendum is a can of worms that any moderately sane government would think twice before opening.

Canada's current referendum law was conceived in haste, in the heat of a losing constitutional battle almost 25 years ago. It was not designed to bring plebiscites into the electoral culture of the country. So many of its key sections are obsolete that it would have to be rewritten before Canada could have another nationwide referendum.

The Conservatives want such a vote to be a pre-condition to the adoption of the new voting system the Liberals promised to put in place in time for the 2019 election.

If one had to sum up the government's mantra, it would be a referendum on electoral reform if necessary but not necessarily a referendum — with an emphasis on the latter part.

But this is one issue that finds Prime Minister Justin Trudeau offside with public opinion. An Ipsos poll conducted for Global News last month pegged support for a referendum on electoral reform at 73 per cent.

And yet, if it came to that, the debate over a referendum could turn out to be more time-consuming and potentially more divisive than the electoral reform discussion itself.

The existing federal referendum law was passed in the spring of 1992 after barely a month of deliberations in the House of Commons. These days it can take that long just to get a motion to set up a committee adopted.

Although it was Brian Mulroney's Tory government that presented the bill, part of the impetus for it came from the Liberal opposition.

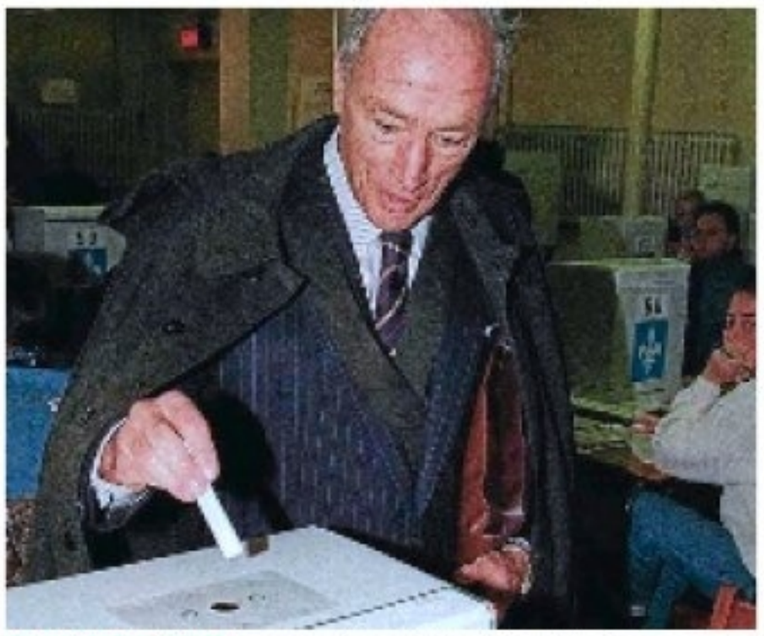
Trudeau has said a referendum is too blunt an instrument to do justice to complex reforms. There was a time when his party believed otherwise.

In an interview with the Star this week, Trudeau maintained that a referendum is too blunt an instrument to do justice to complex reforms. There was a time when his party believed otherwise.

As leader of the opposition, Jean Chrétien championed the notion of putting a constitutional package infinitely more complex than any electoral plan could ever be to a national referendum.

The 1992 law was drafted for the specific purpose of consulting Canadians on constitutional changes. There are contrary views within the legal community as to whether it could be used in a context other than a vote on a proposed amendment to the Constitution.

On this, both sides are really arguing about the number of angels that could dance on the head of a rusty pin.



DECISION POINT Former prime minister Pierre Trudeau casts his ballot for the referendum on the Charlottetown Accord in October 1992. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In 1992, Canada's political system still tapped the rich vein of corporate Canada for money. In the Charlottetown referendum campaign, the big banks and the pharmaceutical industry gave big bucks to the Yes camp. Such contributions have since been banned from the federal system. The referendum law is irremediably out-of-synch with 2016 political financing practices.

And 25 years ago, there was no debate as to what constituted a "clear" referendum mandate. Fifty per cent plus one was the accepted figure. That changed after the 1995 Quebec referendum and a Supreme Court reference that suggested the threshold should be higher. Today, there is no consensus among the federal parties as to what constitutes a "clear" majority. The Liberals, under Trudeau, have consistently maintained that it is more than 50 per cent plus one.

The law is also silent on the regional makeup — if any — of a pan-Canadian majority. After a yes vote to the 1992 Charlottetown accord, the amending formula of the Constitution would have kicked in. Thus, even if an overall majority of Canadians had supported the accord, the national total would have had to minimally include a majority of voters in at least seven provinces including Quebec or Ontario for most of its dispositions to be implemented. It is unlikely that a premier would have signed off on a constitutional deal in the face of the opposition of a majority in his or her province.

In a referendum on electoral reform, the Constitution would offer little firm guidance. Parliament would have to decide whether the sought-after majority should include majorities in every region of the country. Quebec for one would likely insist on the latter.

The Conservatives believe the first-past-the-post system serves their party best. In the face of overwhelming popular pressure for a referendum, they figure Trudeau would abandon his bid to change the voting system rather than put it to a pan-Canadian vote. They may well be right. The option of a national referendum is a can of worms that any moderately sane government would think twice before opening.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

No one has to like Hillary, but we need to respect what her success means

Women have grown tired of "the first female."

Of course we celebrate our sisters' success, but it's a title so dated it feels sexist in itself, a stubborn hangover from the '50s.

We continue to use it out of necessity. Because even in a world where we can now do so much, sexism clings like that gropey, persistent perv at the bar.

As of Tuesday, Hillary Clinton is the first female presidential nominee of a major U.S. political party. Let me repeat: A woman could soon be president of the United States of America. That is not just monumental, and historic, it's the motherlode of "first female" headlines.

As John Cassidy in The New Yorker put it: "This was still a huge night for her, for the Democratic Party, and for the country."

Clinton herself clearly felt it — the elated atmosphere of that moment, taking the stage, happy and relaxed. The victory "belongs to generations of women and men who struggled and sacrificed and made this moment possible," she said. The one person she wishes she could share it with, she told The New York Times, is her mother.

The moment, let's note again, is that a group comprising one half the population finally has a shot at the seat of power in America, if not the world.

And yet, some Bernie Sanders supporters — and the entire right wing of the political world — appear unimpressed. Republicans are too partisan to pull support from even a raging racist, never mind celebrate one woman's achievement on behalf of millions of others. But Sanders' supporters? What's their excuse?

Those impassioned by Sanders' socialist revolution raged and rankled at the Associated Press' decision to declare Clinton the primary winner. The sexists attacked women journalists for reporting the news, calling NPR's Tamara Keith a "dumb c--t," Andrea Bernstein of WNYC a "whore" and HuffPost's Mollie Reilly "shrill."

Even the petty, reluctant GirlIGuessImWithHer hashtag, used by a lot of female Sanders supporters, suggests a group seemingly immune to history-in-the-making for women's equality.

Sanders supporters don't have to like Clinton. They don't have to vote for her. But is it really too much to ask for a modicum of respect for this once-unbelievable achievement? This one isn't about you. No really. This isn't about you. It's about all women.

Donald Trump, the presumptive racist, has welcomed dismayed Sanders supporters with "open arms." That raises a question really worth asking. If you can't recognize an unparalleled juncture for HALF the U.S. population, are you really that progressive? Or do you, after all, belong with Trump?

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Realtor Titi Pierce suing The Ellen DeGeneres Show claiming Ellen mispronounced name to make a joke

Bringing East Coast vibes to pop music

Clothes Off singer Ria Mae has found confidence in making pop music. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

INTERVIEW

Singer Ria Mae hasn't forgotten her Halifax roots

Ria Mae would have called herself a folk singer just a few years ago, but lately she's made a deep commitment to the world of pop.

The soft-spoken performer found her spark in a collaboration with rapper Classified, a fellow Halifax native who has become one of her greatest supporters.

He produced her new album and helped Mae — who did away with her real last name MacNutt — find a more confident voice in the process.

"I just wanted to have more fun with it," the singer says of making music.

"Coming from the East Coast, everyone has that traditional guitar-based, drums (sound) and I was listening to pop radio."

Mae can trace her decision to look beyond her folksy vibes, in part, to a Montreal getaway. A night out at the bars inspired last summer's saucy pop single Clothes Off.

The track's seductive bassline hooked Halifax radio programmers and eventually caught the ears of Toronto record executives, who swooped in and signed Mae for her self-titled second album.

Clothes Off went on to become a smash hit on the Canadian radio charts and grabbed a Juno nomination for single of the year — a category based on sales — alongside songs by Justin Bieber, Drake and the Weeknd.

It was a sudden burst of good fortune for an artist who wasn't exactly primed for a life of fame.

Mae was a reclusive teenager who locked herself away in her bedroom as she scribbled down song lyrics and taught herself how to play guitar. Her anti-social rituals hardly concerned her relatives who were avid players in the arts community.

Unlike them, the 14-year-old Mae was only writing songs for herself in those days.

"I was super shy and just kept it hidden," she says. "I used to write about relationships but I never had one. It was just imagination stuff."

It wasn't until the final months before high school graduation that Mae finally stepped before a crowd to play her music.

While she remembers that moment fondly, her priorities quickly shifted once she entered the working world.

Instead of chasing her musical dreams, Mae put on a hard hat and took a position in construction management. Eventually it became clear to her that she shouldn't have made her creative side a low priority.

So Mae quit her job and adjusted her finances to raise enough money to record her first EP.

After gaining some traction on the Halifax music scene and doing some touring, she made plans to pitch a collaboration with Classified, one of the performers she admired in Halifax for his cunning ability to bring hip-hop to a pop audience.

The rapper was interested, to her surprise, and the two began crafting beats together. Eventually it led to him producing her album.

Mae figures the pairing would've never happened if it weren't for their shared local roots.

"(Halifax) makes for some really funny collaborations," she says. "If I grew up in Toronto I wouldn't necessarily be collaborating with the most famous hip-hop artist (in the city)."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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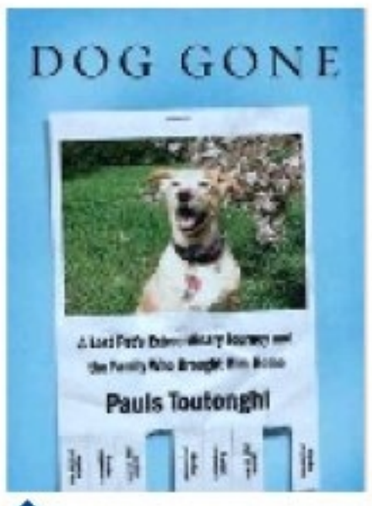
5 BOOKS FOR ANIMAL LOVERS TO WALLOW IN

The birds and the bees, in addition to dogs, goats and pigs, plus sundry other creatures are the leading characters in these releases. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

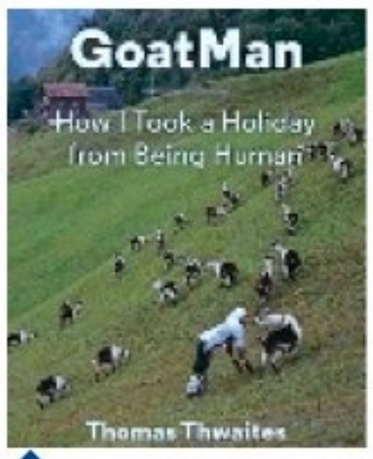
1 Social media

Esther the Wonder Pig: Changing the World One Heart at a Time, Steve Jenkins and Derek Walter with Caprice Crane. This is the memoir of Ontario's own Esther the Wonder Pig, who was adopted in 2012 by Jenkins and Walter as a "micro" pig but soon revealed herself to be a full-size commercial sow who today weighs in at 300 kilos. This amiable book details the early days — failed attempts to housetrain Esther (the sheer volume of pee rules this out) and the dawning realization that they had to figure out alternative strategies for maintaining a porker as a pet. Esther's celebrity breakthrough came when Jenkins and Walter gave her a social media presence. Now she has more than 380,000 likes on Facebook and 185,000 followers on Instagram.



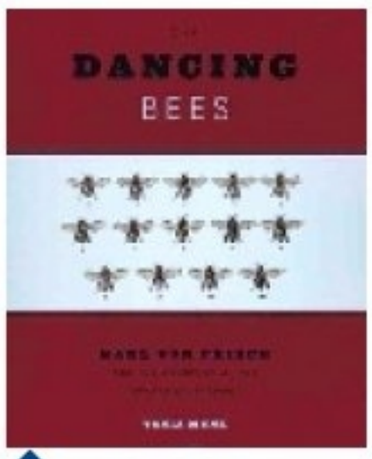
2 Travel

Dog Gone: A Lost Pet's Extraordinary Journey and the Family Who Brought Him Home, Pauls Toutonghi. How often have we read the story of a missing dog or cat that has returned to its family many miles away weeks or months later? This is that story, but this family memoir is more than that, thanks to the storytelling gifts of Pauls Toutonghi, the brother-in-law of Field Marshall, whose golden lab, Gonker, went missing in October, 1998, on the Appalachian Trail.



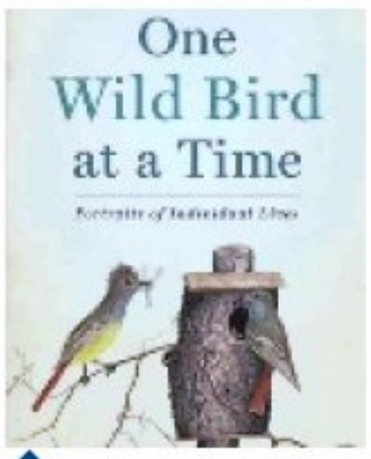
3 Curiosity

GoatMan: How I Took a Holiday from Being Human, Thomas Thwaites. Thomas Thwaites's last venture into the outer reaches of first-person journalism was The Toaster Project in which he figured out how to make a toaster from scratch. In GoatMan, he sets out how to become a goat from scratch. Well, actually, he started out attempting to be an elephant but switched species because of the rarity of pachyderms in his neck of the wood, i.e. England.



4 Science

The Dancing Bees: Karl von Frisch and the Discovery of the Honeybee Language, Tania Munz. This is an unexpectedly interesting book with a dual purpose. It tells the story of Jewish scientist Karl von Frisch (1886-1982) who the Nazis prevented from working with European bees and then compelled him to do so when a collapse of the bee population threatened the pollination of crops and thus the food supply.



5 Memoir

One Wild Bird at a Time: Portraits of Individual Birds, Bernd Heinrich. Heinrich lives in a cabin with large windows in all directions in a clearing in the Maine woods, with lots of berries, seeds and insects — which accounts for his relationships with hawks, vireos, chickadees and grosbeaks, among others. They have become his long-time neighbours, annual visitors or casual drop-ins. Indeed, some have actually homesteaded in his cabin walls.

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS

2-HOUR INTRO TO FLATWATER | AGES 12 - 18

Curious about flatwater sports but not ready to commit? Our Intro to Flatwater program offers two sessions during the week to learn the basics of paddling mechanics and how to balance in challenging boats.
Duration: 2 days, 2 hours each day
When: Monday & Wednesday
Start Date: Now until June 29th, 2016
Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Cost: $20 plus 5% GST

5-DAY SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS | AGES 8 - 12

Our summer camps are a great summer break activity. Participants will develop confidence in paddling a variety of boats, and learn everything from boat and equipment safety to basic paddling mechanics using stand-up paddle boards (SUPs), dragon boats, sprint canoes and kayaks. It's a great program for making new friends, and could be the beginning of a new life of fun on the water.

Duration: 5 Days
When: Monday to Friday
Start Date: July 4th, 2016 (4 day program on Aug 1st to Aug. 5th)
Time: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
Cost: Single - $220 plus 5% GST | Duo - $370 plus 5% GST

9-WEEK YOUTH FLATWATER GROUP TRAINING CANOES, OUTRIGGERS, KAYAKS | AGES 12 - 18

This is a great program to learn new on-water activities, keep active and make new friends. During 9 weeks of training, participants will learn everything about boat safety and equipment care, basic paddling mechanics, how to balance in challenging boats, the fundamentals of an effective stroke, and racing techniques.

Duration: 9 Weeks - From July 4th, 2016 to September 2nd, 2016
When: Monday, Wednesday and Saturday
Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Monday and Wednesday | 9:00 am to 12:00pm Saturday
Cost: Single - $360 plus 5% GST | Duo - $620 plus 5% GST

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Adele buys sprawling L.A. mansion for $9.5 million U.S.

MEET THE CONDO

Resort-style living

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Aragon's The Peninsula has been called "iconic" by the City of New Westminster because it is Queensborough's first and only planned high-rise. The condo offers a luxury resort-style experience on the banks of the Fraser River in three directions. Homebuyers even have access to a private marina.

Housing amenities

The Peninsula's lobby will offer a hotel welcome with a prominent water feature cascading from the second to the ground level. The chef-style kitchens, spa, athletes' club, guest suite and private grocery delivery service add to the "hotel" lifestyle.

Location and transit

Port Royal is in the heart of Metro Vancouver, offering easy access to all parts of the region. The community is also surrounded by a river-front walkway, built by Aragon. Eventually, a pedestrian bridge over the Fraser River will connect Queensborough to the New Westminster Quay, where there are many amenities and transit opportunities.

In the neighbourhood

The Peninsula is situated in Aragon's 52-acre master-planned community called Port Royal. It is a community designed for people of all ages. When completed, there will be 1,184 homes. The rare waterfront setting offers views of the mountains. Aragon has built 15 acres of greenbelt, gardens, playgrounds and an outdoor amphitheatre.

NEED TO KNOW

What: The Peninsula
Builder: Aragon
Designer: Aragon's in-house design team
Location: 210 Salter St., New Westminster
Building: Highrise
Sizes: From 741 sq. ft. to 2,249 sq. ft.
Model: One, two and three-bedroom options
Pricing: Starting in the $439,900s
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WEAVING

Woven bedspreads, blankets part of our modern heritage

For decades, family-owned businesses across the U.S. have produced bedspreads and coverlets created with mechanical looms at their own mills. Made out of natural cotton or wool, in muted hues, these bedspreads and blankets are modern-day heirlooms passed down over generations.

"We get emails to this day from couples who've had their Bates bedspread since the '50s, when they got married. A woman told me, 'My bedspread lasted longer than my marriage," said Bianca Cloutier, 29, vice-president of sales and marketing for Maine Heritage Weavers.

The company's woven bedspreads and coverlets have old-school names such as Cape Cod, featuring a '70s coastal shell theme, and Martha Washington's Choice, in colours including maroon and sage green. That popular intricate design — with loops of chenille cotton pulled upward from the fabric to make raised flower patterns — is based on a 1940s Bates design recreated from a bedspread that George Washington chose for his wife when they married.

> **A woman told me, 'My bedspread lasted longer than my marriage.'**
> Bianca Cloutier, Maine Heritage Weavers

Also, search for online weaving communities and classes, and invest in a small and simple hand loom.

"While a loom is a machine, it takes a craftsperson to use it," sais Bob Christnacht, vice-president of global sales for the 153-year-old Portland, Ore.-based Pendleton, a blanket, bedding and clothing company that boasts six generations of family ownership.

"Weaving is very visceral and emotional, and part of our human heritage," Christnacht said.

"Your bed, too, is a very personal place, and there's an emotional and personal obligation to it." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Spirit of America Bates bedspread in a home in Pasadena, Calif., woven by Maine Heritage Weavers. SOLVEJ SCHOU

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4 HAMMOCKS TO LOUNGE IN ALL SUMMER LONG

Some Euro hammocks have gone famously high end, but the old-school favourites aren't exactly twisting in the wind. Whether splashed with iconic stripes or trimmed in boho fringe, these designs are sultry spots to sway and will add a dose of sophisticated fun to your backyard. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

1 Garo hammock with Fredon stand

This sophisticated version has smart features such as a wheeled stand so it's easy to move and a side pocket to stash books. The included hooks make it a snap to hang: no need for knots. **Source:** Ikea

2 Multistripe hammock-in-a-bag

The famous Hudson's Bay point blanket stripes have been splashed onto a summery, picnic-ready hammock with a vintage style hand-braided rope that tucks into a matching drawstring bag for easy toting. **Source:** Hudson's Bay Company

3 Canyon fringe hammock

For purists who prefer to skip the stand in favour of trees, this Indian-made hammock, complete with trailing magenta tassels and lime-green netting, adds a heady touch of exoticism to any backyard. **Source:** Anthropologie

4 Vivere double salsa hammock with 8-foot stand

You can't go wrong with cabana-fresh stripes. This two-person version lets you cuddle up with a friend, and the adjustable hooks customizes the height. **Source:** Sears

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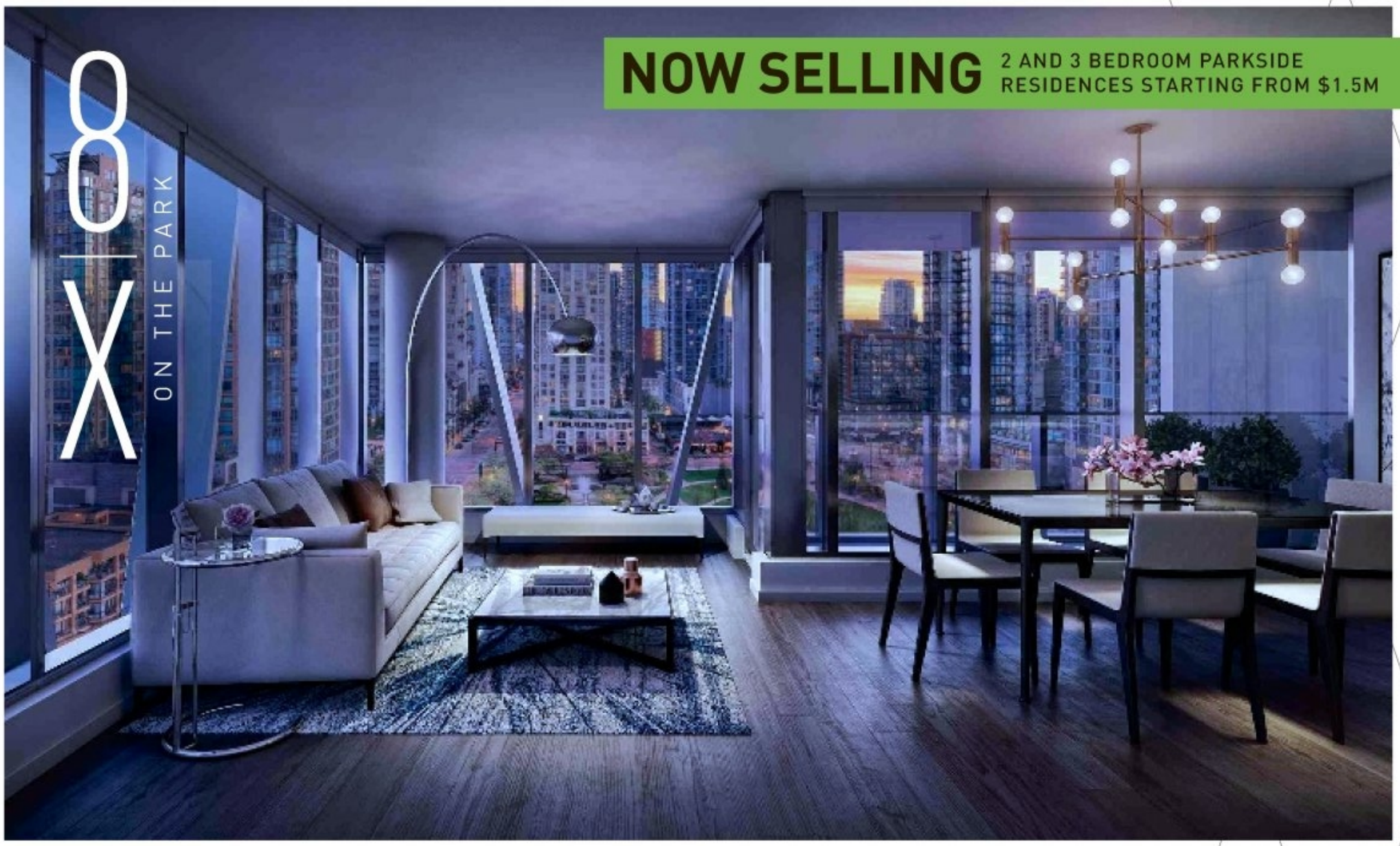

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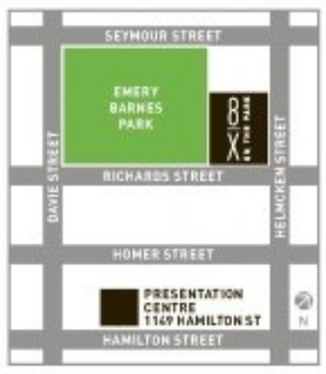

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metro SPORTS

Cristiano Ronaldo's two first-half goals helped Portugal to a 7-0 demolition of Estonia in the last warmup before the Euros

CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Caps take care of business at home

The Vancouver Whitecaps started the game two goals behind but refused to be beaten.

Striker Octavio Rivero put an exclamation point on a Vancouver comeback with a goal in the 52nd minute as the Whitecaps defeated the Ottawa Fury 3-0 Wednesday night to advance to the final of the Amway Canadian Championship.

The Whitecaps won the two-game aggregate semifinal series 3-2. They will face Toronto FC in the final. The Fury are members of the NASL, which is one tier below MLS, where both Vancouver and Toronto play.

SEMIFINAL Aggregate

3	2
WHITECAPS	FURY

Rivero gave Vancouver the victory after taking a pass from midfielder Pedro Morales. He boomed a right-footed shot from about 10 yards out that went off the far post and into the net.

Morales and Nicolas Mezquida also scored. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Sharapova banned 2 years

Maria Sharapova was suspended Wednesday for two years for failing a drug test, labelled "the sole author of her own misfortune" because she hid regular pre-match use of a newly banned substance from anti-doping authorities and members of her own entourage.

The tennis star said she would appeal what she called "an unfairly harsh" punishment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miller turns aside $114.5M from Broncos, source says

Super Bowl MVP Von Miller's camp has rejected a contract proposal that would have made him the highest-paid non-QB in NFL history, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Miller's representatives reportedly rejected a six-year, $114.5-million offer that included $39.8 million in guarantees in the first two years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cavs' emphatic reply

LeBron James throws down two of his 32 points over Stephen Curry on Wednesday night. JASON MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

NBA FINALS

LeBron and co. make it a series with Game 3 blowout victory

LeBron James scored 32 points, Kyrie Irving added 30 and the Cleveland Cavaliers, pushed for 48 minutes by a delirious, championship-starved crowd, hammered the Golden State Warriors 120-90 in Game 3 on Wednesday night to pull within 2-1 in the NBA Finals.

GAME 3 In Cleveland

120	90

On their home floor, where they have been dominant all post-season, the Cavs pulled their season from the brink of disaster following back-to-back blowout losses in the Bay Area.

"Coaching staff gave us a great game plan and we executed it for 48 minutes," James said.

They did it without starting forward Kevin Love, little help from their bench and by keeping Stephen Curry penned in.

The league's MVP was mostly MIA, scoring 19 points — two in the first half — on 6-for-13 shooting. Harrison Barnes scored 18 and Klay Thompson 10 for Golden State, which had won seven straight over Cleveland — the first two finals games by a combined 48 points — and came back to the birthplace of rock 'n' roll looking to party like they did after winning the title in Quicken Loans Arena last year.

The Cavs, though, have made this a series after it appeared the Warriors were on the fast track to another crown.

James had called it "do or die" for Cleveland.

Well, done and living.

"We've got to give the same effort on Friday," James said. "It started defensively and it trickled down to the offensive side."

Irving bounced back from two rough games out West, J.R. Smith made five three-pointers and Tristan Thompson did the dirty work inside, getting 13 rebounds for the Cavs, who improved to 8-0 at home and can even the series with a win in Game 4 on Friday night. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Sweet Potato and Kale Frittata

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You can't beat the appeal of eggs for dinner and but we gave this hearty dish a nutritional one-two punch thanks to the help of kale and sweet potato.

Ready in
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp butter
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 1 pound frozen chopped kale
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 cups boiled diced sweet potato (about 1 large potato)
- 6 eggs
- 2 Tbsp milk
- 1 tsp fresh, chopped parsley

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. In an ovenproof skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Add onions and cook until soft, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and kale and cook until garlic fragrant and kale wilted.

2. Add potatoes and soften, about 3 to 5 minutes.

3. Meanwhile, whisk eggs and milk. Pour egg mixture over potatoes and kale, and cook on stovetop another 3 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley.

4. Transfer skillet to oven and bake about 6 to 8 minutes or until eggs are set.

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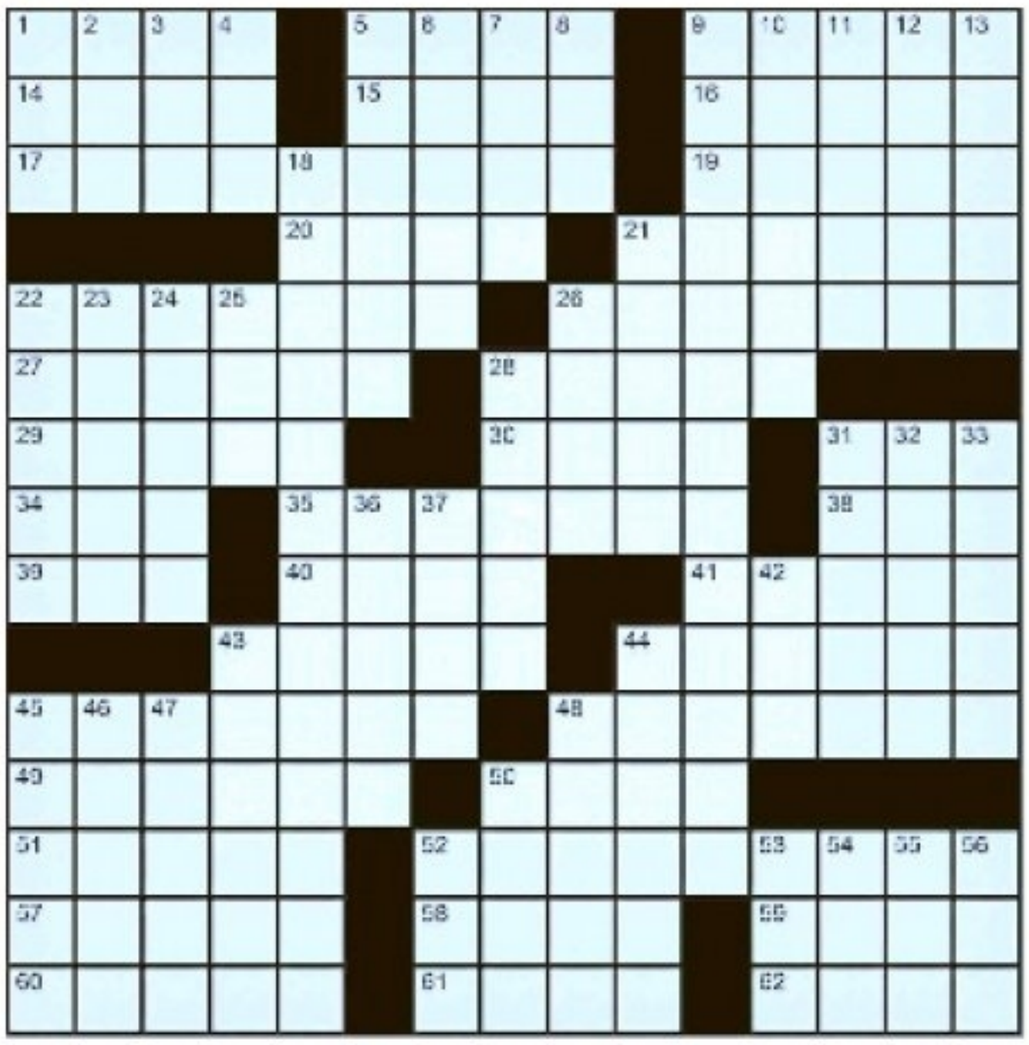
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. '500' car race
5. "Last Comic Standing" laugh-getter
9. Athenian lawmaker
14. Grimace
15. Port city of Algeria
16. 1985 movie for Canadian actress Kate Nelligan, co-starring John Malkovich
17. Home's curb appeal area: 2 wds.
19. TNT-using result!
20. Bun
21. English band, _ Chiefs
22. Around-the-house comfy loose dresses
26. Old bagpipe instrument of France
27. Except if...
28. Mr. Gingrich's
29. Swiss chocolates brand
30. Pro's foe
31. Sovereign, e.g.
34. Grind _ _ halt
35. North _ River (Body of water for the southern Quebec zoo town of Granby)
38. Grazing land
39. Entries
40. Receptive
41. Baseball great Mr. Ryan
43. Type of citizenship [pl.]
44. Declining
45. "Don Juan _" (1994)
48. Lamentations
49. Disinclined
50. Secular
51. _ whale
52. Historic military attraction in Kingston, Ontario: 2 wds.
57. Emily Carr's prop
58. Automatic
59. Be open-wide
60. Eat energetically
61. Mr. Redding
62. Fitness facilities

DOWN
1. Global currency org.
2. Hide Hair link
3. Simon & Garfunkel
4. Japan currency
5. Gleeful
6. Verbal tests
7. Mr. Malden
8. Finish
9. Canadian rock singer who has starred on Broadway and began his career as Skid Row's lead singer: 2 wds.
10. Namesakes of Kukla and Fran's co-star
11. Last but not what?
12. Start
13. Saltpetre
18. Blue Rodeo song: 2 wds.
21. Kourtney, Kim and Khloe's show [acronym]
22. _-faceted
23. _ Station, commuters hub in downtown Toronto
24. Arm bones
25. Pre-_ student
26. YMCA's 'M'
28. Some flatbreads
31. Writer wife of composer Irving Berlin
32. Intended
33. Hungry feelings
36. Speedily
37. "Canadian Idol" Season 5 winner Brian
42. Sash
43. What the sky becomes as the day turns to night
44. Privileged classes
45. Judi Dench, and others
46. Mineral water brand
47. High IQ society
48. PQ = _ Quebecois
50. Plunder
52. To and _
53. _ timer
54. Yea not
55. Circling stat.
56. "For sure."

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Don't get carried away with disputes about money, inheritances and shared property. Will an argument really change anything? Stay calm, and rely on logic instead of a hot temper.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Difficulties with spouses, partners and close friends are likely today, because Mercury is in your sign, opposing fiery Mars. (Yikes!) This means people are ready to fight!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You are mentally restless today; however, you can use this energy for research or to seek out answers to problems. Focus your search in one area.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Difficulties with a friend or perhaps a member of a group might arise today. Basically, it's a gun fight at the O.K. Corral. Who has the biggest weapon?

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Difficulties with authority figures are likely today, which is why this is a poor day to ask for approval or permission for anything. Just keep a low profile and don't go looking for trouble.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Avoid controversial subjects like politics, religion and racial issues today, because they will quickly deteriorate into a nasty argument. Mostly, this is because people want to fight.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Disputes about inheritances and shared property are likely today. This is a poor day for these kinds of discussions; therefore, wait for a better day.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Difficulties with partners and close friends are likely today because fiery Mars is in your sign opposing Mercury, which is directly opposite you. Chill out.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Squabbles with co-workers or people related to your job are likely today. However, it takes two to make a fight, right? Therefore, refuse to engage. Time to go fishing.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Be patient with kids today, because they are just as likely to quarrel as you are. Knowing this, direct people's attention to things you have in common.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Avoid family disputes today, because it's just not worth it. Family is gold. Every time you have family dissension, everyone loses.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a mildly accident-prone day, because you might be emotionally upset about something. Just keep calm and carry on. Truer words were never spoken. An agitated mind will lead to accidents.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		7	5	6				1
		9		2				
6	3							
8					6			
5	2			7			1	8
			3					2
							8	5
				9		6		
1				5	8	7		

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5	9	7	4	3	8	6	2	1
1	3	2	9	6	7	4	5	8
6	2	9	1	5	4	3	8	7
4	7	5	6	8	3	1	9	2
3	1	8	7	2	9	5	4	6
2	8	1	3	7	5	9	6	4
9	6	3	2	4	1	8	7	5
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